

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 10, 1976
NO. 18

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEPUTY SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING AUGUST 10, 1976:

(1) DEPUTY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED VISIT OF CANADIAN EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN TO WASHINGTON AUGUST 17-18 AS
GUEST OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, PURPOSE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL
AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ASKED WHAT
"SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES" HAD INTERFERED WITH SECRETARY'S
VISIT TO CANADA AT END OF JULY, DEPY SPOKESMAN CITED STATE
VISITS DURING BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

(2) FATHER WEEKS -- ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY
NOTIFIED US THAT CATHOLIC FATHER JAMES MARTIN WEEKS HAS BEEN
DETAINED FOR ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY IN
BUENOS AIRES IS URGENTLY PRESSING FOR CONSULAR ACCESS BUT
TO DATE HAS NOT HAD SUCCESS. DATE OF ARREST AROUND AUGUST
4. WE ARE PURSUING CASE AS ACTIVELY AND AS DILIGENTLY AS
POSSIBLE GIVEN SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AT THE MOMENT.

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(3) AEGEAN -- SUBJECT WAS ADDRESSED YESTERDAY AT DAILY BRIEFING AND SECRETARY DID SO THIS MORNING, SAYING THAT WE ARE IN VIRTUALLY CONSTANT CONTACT WITH BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA, URGING RESTRAINT AND URGING THAT GREEKS/TURKS RESOLVE COMPETING CLAIMS IN THE AEGEAN IN PEACEFUL MANNER. GREEKS/TURKS ARE IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER AND WE ARE AWARE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE QUESTION WILL BE DEBATED IN U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL. OUR POSITION WILL BECOME KNOWN AT THAT TIME.

(4) SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT HE SAW "NO LEGAL BASIS FOR ANY MILITARY ACTION BETWEEN GREEKS AND TURKS: COULD THIS BE CONSTRUED IN ANY WAY AS SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH POSITION THAT THEY ARE JUSTIFIED IN DOING WHAT THEY ARE DOING? -- WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THAT THIS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH POSITION. WE SIMPLY HAVE NO INFORMATION ON HOW THAT REMARK SHOULD BE INTERPRETED. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE AEGEAN SITUATION. WE HAVE TWO VALUED NATO ALLIES WITH SEVERAL SUBJECTS OF DISAGREEMENT AND COMPETITION BETWEEN THEM. WE BELIEVE BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD ACT CIRCUMSPECTLY IN AEGEAN TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS AND TO DEVISE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH EMBASSIES IN ANKARA AND ATHENS, AND CANNOT FURTHER CHARACTERIZE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD DISPUTE AT THIS TIME.

(5) SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE AT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION -- DEPY SPOKESMAN VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "I CAN CONFIRM TODAY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL ATTEND THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY. DETAILS ON WHEN HE IS GOING TO GO OUT, AND HOW LONG HE IS GOING TO STAY, ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT."

(FYI: THERE WAS REPEATED QUESTIONING, BASED ON BERNARD KALB CBS REPORT MORNING AUGUST 10 (S/PRS CABLE NO. 17, MORNING REPORT) REGARDING GENESIS OF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECRETARY WOULD ATTEND CONFERENCE. DEPY SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSION OF HOW AND WHY HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE CONFIRMATION.

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(6) LOS -- DATE OF SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE STILL NOT FIRM BUT WILL PROBABLY GO TO NEW YORK FOR BRIEF VISIT LATER THIS WEEK.

(7) SOVIET JULY 4/29 NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS -- AS PRESIDENT SAID, USG HAS BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH SOVIETS REGARDING SHOTS. OUR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THEM BUT CANNOT CHARACTERIZE OUR POSITION BEYOND THAT. FACT THAT WE HAVE

BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOVIETS DOES NOT PRECLUDE FUTURE "CONSULTATIONS" IF IT IS DETERMINED IN FACT THAT BLASTS WERE IN EXCESS OF 150 KT. WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT BLASTS WERE IN RANGE OF 100-300 KT, THIS POINTS UP RATHER LARGE AREA OF UNCERTAINTY. PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN TO PUT IN TERMS OF 100-300, WHILE WE HAVE NOTED THAT BLASTS STRADDLED 150 KT, ALL OF WHICH UNDERLINES IMPRECISION OF MEASUREMENTS AND INABILITY OF EXPERTS TO MAKE FIRM JUDGMENT.

ASKED IF, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, SOVIETS PERMITTED TO MAKE TWO MISTAKES A YEAR, DEPY SPOKESMAN CITED LETTER OF SUBMITTAL FOR TTB/PNE TREATIES, PAGE VII, READING: "ONE OR TWO SLIGHT, UNINTENDED BREACHES PER YEAR WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE TREATY. SUCH BREACHES WOULD BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN, HOWEVER, AND AT THE REQUEST OF EITHER PARTY WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS."

ROBINSON

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